

# 10 REASONS TO STUDY PUBLIC HEALTH



LUDWIG-  
MAXIMILIANS-  
UNIVERSITÄT  
MÜNCHEN

**PSPH**  
PETTENKOFER SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

# WHAT IS PUBLIC HEALTH?

Public Health is an independent and interdisciplinary empirical science. While medicine as a discipline concentrates on the wellbeing of individuals, Public Health examines which factors promote health or prevent disease on a population level.

As a very broad discipline, Public Health is interested in the biological mechanisms underlying health and diseases in environmental, sociological and political processes and factors that may contribute to these.

Public Health specialists investigate the causes and prevalence of global diseases, develop and evaluate health promotion programmes and research the effects of poverty or climate change on health. Furthermore, they estimate the costs of diseases and analyse strengths and weaknesses of health systems.

# YOUR CAREER IN PUBLIC HEALTH

A master's degree in Public Health opens up a variety of career opportunities. Students gain theoretical knowledge, practical skills and key competencies that qualify them to work in the broad field of Public Health.

Upon graduation, many alumni continue working in research, often to pursue a PhD degree.

Another very popular career path among our alumni is provided by the job openings in Public Health institutions at the local, regional, national or international level. Many of our alumni also take up employment in health insurance companies, in the field of workplace health promotion or in the pharmaceutical sector.

# 10 REASONS TO STUDY PUBLIC HEALTH AT LMU MUNICH AND PSPH

1

A programme with  
tradition

Starting with Max von Pettenkofer, one of the founders of modern Public Health research, Public Health has a long tradition in Munich. The programme was one of the first master's programmes in Public Health in Germany.

2

## Customise your study programme according to your interests

Health promotion, health economics, quantitative and qualitative methods, Global Public Health, Planetary Health, Public Mental Health, Public Health Nutrition: With a variety of elective modules, the programme enables students to gain deeper insights into their specific topics of interest.

3

## Study at a University of Excellence

LMU Munich stands for innovative research and outstanding teaching. It is one of the few universities in Germany to be regularly awarded the title of "University of Excellence".

4

## Lecturers with hands-on expertise

The lectures and courses are conducted by professionals with profound expertise not only in academia, but also in applied Public Health. Therefore, they can provide their students practical insights in addition to theoretical knowledge.

## 5

### From knowledge to practice

Our programme follows a structure that helps students gain rigorous theoretical knowledge in the first year. In the second year, they have the opportunity to apply their newly gained competencies during an internship and their master's thesis. Some students even take up regular employment at the institution of their internship after completing the master's programme.

## 6

### Interdisciplinary approach

Congruent with the Health in All Policies approach, our programme incorporates methods, knowledge and practice from the whole spectrum of health-related areas of work: from medicine and biometry to economics and politics.

## 7

### Gain scientific experience

Many students write their master's thesis at the institution of their internship. This allows them to spend up to a whole year working on a scientific topic of their choice. Furthermore, many of our students master's theses are published in international journals.

## 8

### Live and study in Munich

Munich, being in the heart of Europe, is among the most vibrant, diverse and popular cities to live in. In international rankings it is regularly considered to be one of the most liveable cities.

## 9

### Opportunities for networking

The Pettenkofer School of Public Health is connected with many public health players at local, national and international level. The courses, internships and additional events provide students with numerous opportunities to connect with experts from various fields of public health research and practice.

## 10

### A field with growing significance

Climate change, non-communicable diseases and ageing populations are just a few of the reasons for the increasing relevance of Public Health. As the level of attention paid to Public Health continues to grow in Germany and worldwide, so does the range of career opportunities for our alumni.

# OUR PROGRAMME

The master's programme in Public Health offers students the opportunity to learn how to analyse the health of populations and to recognise and evaluate the environmental and social drivers affecting health and wellbeing. Furthermore, our students learn to develop and evaluate interventions that enable individuals to live a healthy life. In the first semester, the curriculum covers fundamental topics such as epidemiological methods and biometry, as well as introducing important Public Health concepts. In the second semester, students have the opportunity to specialise and choose from a wide variety of elective modules according to their own interests. In the compulsory internship in the third semester and the master's thesis in the fourth semester, students apply their newly acquired skills to a topic of their choice.



The programme is structured in accordance with the Bologna Process. A total of 120 ECTS credits must be acquired over four semesters.

#### **CORE MODULES (90 ECTS)**

- Biometry
- Epidemiology
- Research Skills
- Practices and Politics in Public Health
- Basic medical knowledge
- Intercultural communication
- Internship
- Master's Thesis

#### **ADDITIONAL CHOICE OF ELECTIVE MODULES**

(from the Master Programme Epidemiology)

- Advanced Methods in Epidemiology
- Applied Epidemiology
- Recent Developments in Biostatistics
- Health Communication

All core lectures and courses are held in German. Within the elective modules, students have the opportunity to choose courses in English.

#### **ELECTIVE MODULES (30 ECTS)**

- Prevention and Health Promotion
- Social and Behavioural Sciences
- Global Public Health
- Qualitative Methods
- Public Mental Health
- Planetary Healthy
- Public Health Nutrition
- Developing surveys and survey questionnaires
- Health Services Research and Health Economics
- Health Care Research

**4 SEMESTERS / 2 YEARS**  
**120 ECTS**

# HOW TO APPLY

## Admissions requirements

- Completed university degree (bachelor's degree or equivalent) in a health-related discipline such as: medicine, public health, pharmacy, natural sciences, nutritional sciences, psychology, social sciences, statistics, sports science, economics and business administration, law, communication science or any other discipline relevant to the health sciences
- Formal application including curriculum vitae and certificates
- Passed written and oral entry exam (in German)

**APPLICATION: MAY 15**

**SEMESTER START: MID-OCTOBER**

## Written exam

The written exam lasts 90 minutes, in which we test the applicants' knowledge of and abilities in the following topics:

- Basic knowledge of mathematics and statistics
- Critical interpretation of scientific literature and information in the media
- Principles of scientific work
- Important basic concepts in epidemiology and Public Health
- Current issues relevant to Public Health

## Oral exam

The oral exam is conducted in the form of a 30-minute admission interview. The following topics are addressed to assess the applicants' abilities:

- Knowledge of the health system
- Motivation for the master's programme
- Realistic perception of career prospects
- Ability to outline how the master's programme will complement the knowledge and skills obtained in previous studies
- Problem solving and decision making abilities
- Ability to critically evaluate scientific findings
- Communicative competences

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1

What is the teaching language of the programme?

All courses and lectures of the core modules and the corresponding exams are held in German. Thus, good German language skills are a prerequisite (level C1 or equivalent).

Please note that certificates have to be submitted with the application. Find more information here:

[bit.ly/LMU-admission-info](https://bit.ly/LMU-admission-info)

2

Does LMU Munich offer language courses?

LMU Munich offers German courses for various levels of proficiency. Find more information here:

[bit.ly/LMU-language-courses](https://bit.ly/LMU-language-courses)

3

Are any specific skills in statistics required?

Previous knowledge of statistics is helpful, but not necessary. The relevant basics are taught in the first year of the programme. However, the programme requires a certain level of statistical thinking.

4

What is the schedule of the programme?

Lectures in the first semester take place from Monday to Wednesday. The rest of the week should be used for independent study and exam preparation. The schedule in the second and third semesters varies according to the individual choice of elective modules. In the fourth semester, students attend a master's colloquium parallel to their master's thesis.

5

Are there any opportunities to study abroad during the master's programme?

Students have the opportunity to apply for a semester abroad via the Erasmus programme at one of our partner universities: Tromsø (Norway), Warsaw (Poland) and Bordeaux (France). Internships abroad are possible if the formal requirements are fulfilled

6

Which first degree is required for the MSc Public Health programme?

The minimum requirement is a bachelor's degree (or equivalent) in a field relevant to the health sciences. Please contact the programme coordination team if you are not sure whether your degree is suitable.

7

What is the deadline for applications?

The deadline for applications is May 15. The written exam takes place in mid June. All candidates who successfully pass the written exam are invited for an oral exam, which takes place end of June / early July. Information on the application procedure and the current deadlines can be found on our website.

8

Is work experience required before applying for the programme?

Work experience is an asset, but not a requirement for admission to the programme.

9

How many students are admitted each year?

All applicants who pass the written and oral exam are admitted to the programme. Usually between 40 and 50 students begin the master's programme each year.

10

When does the programme start?

Courses start at the beginning of the winter semester, in mid-October. Please note that the programme only starts in the winter semester.

## 11

How much is the tuition fee per semester?

LMU Munich charges a semester fee of approximately 130 EUR per semester. Find more information on the fee here:

[bit.ly/3vPDJuY](https://bit.ly/3vPDJuY)

## 12

Where can I find accommodation?

Finding accommodation in Munich can be difficult, especially in September, October and November, when most new students arrive in the city. Therefore, it is advisable to start looking for accommodation as soon as possible. Most students live in private rooms or apartments. Rooms in students' halls of residence usually have long waiting lists.

Most of these rooms are managed by "Studentenwerk München". For further information and advice for students looking for accommodation in Munich, please consult:

[www.studentenwerk-muenchen.de/en/](https://www.studentenwerk-muenchen.de/en/)



## 13

### How to get started in Munich?

The Welcome Day and semester opening event is an excellent source of information on how to get started in your new student life and offers many opportunities to socialise. Make sure you join us!

## 14

### How can I find a student job?

You can find a list of student assistant jobs here:

[bit.ly/LMU-student-jobs](https://bit.ly/LMU-student-jobs)

Further job opportunities as well as opportunities for further qualifications can be found on the website of the LMU Career Service:

[bit.ly/LMU-career-service](https://bit.ly/LMU-career-service)

## 15

### What type of Visa should I apply for?

Students from most countries outside the EU will require a student visa. We strongly advise you to contact the German embassy and/or consulate in your country of residence to ensure that you apply for the correct type of visa specific to your situation. Please make sure to check well in advance what the exact entry permit regulations applicable to your nationality are.

OUR UNIVERSITY

LUDWIG-MAXIMILIANS-UNIVERSITÄT  
LMU MUNICH

OUR INSTITUTE

INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL  
INFORMATION PROCESSING,  
BIOMETRY AND EPIDEMIOLOGY  
IBE

OUR SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

PETTENKOFER SCHOOL  
OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
PSPH

The Pettenkofer School of Public Health (PSPH) comprises three partnering institutions: the medical faculty of LMU Munich, Helmholtz Munich and the Bavarian Health and Food Safety Authority. This network strives for the continued development and improvement of Public Health research and the promotion of Health in all Policies, and supports the transfer of new scientific methods into practice.

The Institute for Medical Information Processing, Biometry and Epidemiology (IBE) at the medical faculty of LMU Munich takes pride in its broad range of methodological expertise in conducting observational studies and randomized controlled trials and in advancing and applying novel epidemiological and statistical techniques.

Within the IBE, the master's programme in Public Health is located at the Chair of Public Health and Health Services Research, which takes the lead in many innovative research projects with an emphasis on methodological pluralism and interdisciplinary approaches.

LMU Munich has a long-standing tradition as one of the top national and international universities. Today, LMU Munich is among the few universities recognised for its distinctive achievements by the German government's prestigious Excellence Initiative. Furthermore, it is regularly ranked among the best universities in international rankings, making Munich an exciting place to study.



*Professor Dr. Eva Rehfuss  
Chair of Public Health and  
Health Services Research*



# "SOCIAL ASPECTS OF DISEASES"

Before studying Public Health, I worked as a medical doctor in pediatrics. As I wanted to know more about the social aspects of preventable diseases in children and adolescents, I enrolled in the Public Health programme at LMU Munich. The master's programme provided me with insights into many different fields of Public Health.

I now work at the City of Munich's Department for Health and Environment, with a special focus on health care for children. My knowledge of biometry and epidemiology is an important asset in my day-to-day work as it allows me to assess the quality of relevant scientific publications.

*Viola Koncz*

*Department for Health and Environment, City of Munich*

# "FOCUS ON APPLIED LEARNING"

After my BSc in Sociology I was looking for a master's programme that would accommodate my interest in both social sciences and health sciences. The MSc Public Health programme at LMU Munich not only offered an impressive breadth of topics, but was also very appealing to me because of its focus on applied learning and the possibility to go abroad for one semester. To gain hands-on experience in the field of Public Health, I started work at the German National Cohort (GNC) study centre in Augsburg even before the start of the master's programme. After completing my studies, I was offered a position as research associate at the GNC. I am now responsible for training our research investigators and for coordinating our quality management.



*Nicole Sowarka*  
*German National Cohort Study Centre, Augsburg*

Our mission is to provide our students with the fundamental methodological and analytical knowledge required in the various fields of Public Health. We want to enable our students to work both in academic settings and in Public Health practice. In the spirit of Health in All Policies, we aim to equip our students with a broad and interdisciplinary perspective on Public Health.

Our vision is for our graduates to contribute to the continuous improvement of Public Health in Germany and worldwide.

# MAX VON PETTENKOFER (1818-1901)

Max von Pettenkofer founded the world's first hygiene institute at LMU Munich in 1865. He is considered a pioneer of public health, and Munich owes him its sewage system, which was extremely innovative for the 19th century, and the central drinking water supply – two cornerstones for the health of the city's population.

For Pettenkofer, health was a comprehensive medical, social, economic, technical and epidemiological challenge.

As the eponym of the Pettenkofer School of Public Health, he still refers to the roots of public health in Munich and Bavaria.

# MSc PUBLIC HEALTH

4 SEMESTERS / 2 YEARS

120 ECTS

FULLTIME

APPLICATION MAY 15

MAINLY GERMAN

START MID-OCTOBER

LMU Munich | Pettenkofer School of Public Health  
Institute for Medical Information Processing, Biometry, and Epidemiology (IBE)  
Master's Programme Epidemiology

Elisabeth-Winterhalter-Weg 6  
81377 Munich

Email [coenen@ibe.med.uni-muenchen.de](mailto:coenen@ibe.med.uni-muenchen.de)

Web [www.en.ibe.med.uni-muenchen.de/public-health](http://www.en.ibe.med.uni-muenchen.de/public-health)



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